

### **REMARKS**

In response to the final Office Action dated May 27, 2004, and prior to initial review in response to the Request For Continued Examination, reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully solicited. Claims 1, 16, 31 and 46 have been amended and claims 7, 12, 22, 27, 37 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-21, 23-26, 28-36, 38-41 and 47-50 are pending in the application.

In paragraph three on page three of the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 16-20, 31-35, and 46-49 were rejected under § 102(e) over Yacoub (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,813).

In paragraph five on page four of the Office Action, Claims 6-12, 21-27, 36-42, and 50 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yacoub as described in claim 16 above, and in view of Nagata (JP 411110163).

In paragraph six on page six of the Office Action, Claims 13-15, 28-30, and 43-45 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yacoub and Nagata described in Claims 21-22 and 27 above, and in view of Olsen et al. (U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0016921).

Applicants respectfully traverse the §§ 102(e) and 103(a) rejections. Applicants respectfully assert that the requirements for either a § 102(e) or a §103(a) rejection are not present and a prima facie rejection fails because the Office Action fails to cite a reference or references that teach, disclose or suggest all the claim limitations of Applicants' application.

Applicants' application requires determining when attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job comprise MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL and processing the incoming print job based upon the job description attributes of the incoming print job and whether the print channel attributes are determined to be MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL.

Yacoub, unlike the instant application, fails to suggest that a determination is made as to when attributes of a print channel associated with an incoming print job comprise MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL. Further, Yacoub fails to suggest that the incoming print job are processed based upon the job description attributes of the incoming print job and whether the print channel attributes are determined to be MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL.

Yacoub merely mentions that a print job is sent to a printer based upon a user defined image quality and/or speed and that a job may be spooled. Yacoub fails to even suggest that the print channel attributes may include MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL and MAY SPOOL or that a print job is processed based upon a determination of whether the print channel attributes are determined to be MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL. .

Nagata fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yacoub. Nagata focuses on a print processor having "a spool-processing means to hold the printed output data sent through a network from the host terminal." Nagata emphasizes aspects of output data and discusses data sent through a network only to the extent that data must be sent through a path to spool processing means. Nagata does not discuss print channel attributes. Therefore, Nagata, alone or in combination with Yacoub, fails to disclose, teach or suggest that a determination is made as to when attributes of a print channel associated with an incoming print job comprise MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL. Further, Nagata, alone or in combination with Yacoub, fails to disclose, teach or suggest that incoming print jobs are processed based upon the job description attributes of the incoming print job and whether the print channel attributes are determined to be MUST PRINT, MUST SPOOL or MAY SPOOL.

Olsen too fails to remedy the deficiencies of both Yacoub and Nagata. Olsen focuses on

a “system and method for ensuring secure transfer of a document from a client of a network to a printer.”

Because Yacoub, Nagata and Olsen, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims in the instant application, the rejections are improper. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 38-41, 43-45 and 47-50 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 16, 31 and 46. Further dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 38-41, 43-45 and 47-50 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 38-41, 43-45 and 47-50 are patentable over the cited references.

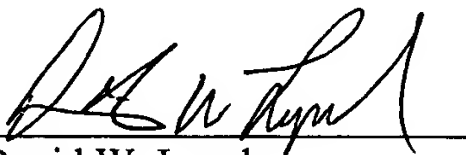
On the basis of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

Appl. No. 09/550,669  
Preliminary Amdt. Dated: November 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2004

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

Respectfully submitted,  
Crawford Maunu PLLC  
1270 Northland Drive, Suite 390  
St. Paul, MN 55120  
(651) 686-6633 x116

Date: November 29, 2004

By:   
David W. Lynch  
Reg. No. 36,204